



Inter Department Correspondence Sheet

TO: Members of Council

FROM: Richard Allan Bull, City Clerk

COPIES TO: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: Minutes of City Council Meeting

January 18, 2022

Attached are the minutes from the City Council Meeting held on January 11, 2022.

Richard Allan Bull  
City Clerk

## NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

### MEETING OF COUNCIL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022

Mayor Kenneth Cooper Alexander, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mrs. Courtney R. Doyle, Mrs. Mamie B. Johnson, Mrs. Andria P. McClellan, Mr. Paul R. Riddick, Ms. Danica J. Royster, Mr. Tommy R. Smigiel Jr. and Vice Mayor A. Martin Thomas Jr.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Personnel** - Dr. Filer stated that Mr. Doug Beaver has accepted the position of Director of Public Utilities. He thanked Mr. Bob Carteris for serving as the interim director. Mr. Carteris will resume his position as Assistant Director of Public Utilities.

Interim positions: Ms. Kimberley Pierce will serve as Acting Director of Neighborhood Services. Ms. Kelly Straub will serve as Acting Director of Marketing and Communications. Mr. Kyle Spencer will serve as acting Director of the Office of Resilience. Council will be updated on full-time positions.

**COVID Update** – Dr. Filer stated that some city operations have changed for the next 30 days due to the recent surge in COVID infection rates. City Hall will remain open, and masks are mandatory inside the building. Leniency inside city offices will remain, but masking in all public and cubicle areas is strongly recommended. Some city services could be delayed, especially front-line services, but we will do the best we can to prevent that from happening. All staff-organized large public meetings will be held virtually. City Council meetings and some board and commission meetings will be in person until further notice.

Councilwoman Doyle questioned whether City Council meetings should be in person during this time.

Dr. Filer stated that approximately 81% of city staff are fully vaccinated. Based on the new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines, N95 masks will be issued to all staff. Proof of vaccination or weekly testing requirements remain the same. For individuals who have been exposed to COVID, new CDC Guidelines lists a five-day isolation period. The Military Circle Mall vaccination site now provides an outdoor testing site six days per week and by appointment only.

Dr. Filer stated that the Commissioner of the Revenue and Treasurer offices have opted to conduct business virtually on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Their offices will be open for in-person business on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**“Military Circle Redevelopment Update”** - The presentations scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup> are postponed until February. A memo has been sent to all three teams providing three alternative dates. Staff will notify Council when a date has been confirmed. If health conditions do not improve, a virtual meeting will be considered.

### **“Granby Street Multimodal Corridor Improvements”**

Presenter: Mr. Patrick Roberts, Deputy City Manager

Also present: Ms. Amy Inman, Director of Transit

Mr. Keith Darrow, Civil Engineer III, Transit

Dr. Filer stated citizens both in favor of bike lanes and against have voiced concerns at recent City Council meetings. The city won a grant from the state in 2016 and funds are now available. Since the time the grant was received under the previous administration, other changes are proposed in addition to bike lanes. This includes changes on policy, on multi-modal transit, and on pedestrian safety.

Mr. Roberts stated that the Council is not being asked to make decisions today. He will outline the proposals being presented for the corridor and upcoming funding decisions. The project originally began as just a bike lane project, but it has evolved to include multimodal improvements along the corridor.

### **Project Overview**

- **Location:** Granby Street from Willow Wood Drive to Admiral Taussig Boulevard (2 miles)
- **Proposal:** Improve Granby Street with comprehensive multimodal improvements, including bike, pedestrian, and vehicular safety projects
- **Why:** Improve safety, enhance multimodal travel options, reduce speeds
- **2016 SMART Scale Application:** \$822,000

Mr. Roberts stated that Vision Zero has occurred in a way that we now talk about reducing dangerous conditions in all corridors. The city has invested in multimodal travel and all modes of travel can share key corridors and neighborhoods as they move throughout the city.

Mr. Roberts stated through the project development, they have been able to leverage outreach, stakeholder input, and collaboration throughout the project corridor. Many long-time residents in this corridor, including businesses, churches, schools, and other institutions, participated in in-person meetings, virtual sessions, and utilized interactive information on the city's website.

### **Project Development**

- Advisory Group (24 members)
  - Monthly meetings (Jan 2021 – present)
- Meetings & Workshops
  - 2 Virtual Workshops & 1 in-person Open House at Talbot Park Farmers Market
  - Meetings with Civic Leagues, Schools, Businesses, Churches, City Departments
- Technology & Outreach
  - Project Website
  - Project postcards (9,483 mailed)
  - Press Releases and Social media Posts
  - News Alerts & Email Notifications
  - City Council and City Manager Updates
- Technical Analysis
  - Traffic Study
    - *Utilized pre-Covid traffic count data*
- Crash Analysis
- Conceptual Design

#### **Project Website Details**

- Fact Sheet + Q&A Sheet
- Story Map (3,186 views)
- Online comment form (278 comments received)
- Online Survey (713 records)
- Project comment map
- Design Concept comment map
- Public Workshop recordings and meeting materials

#### **Advisory Group Consensus**

- Overall Goal: Improve corridor with multimodal enhancements that improve safety for ALL modes of transportation, including bike, pedestrian, vehicular, and access to transit
- Accept SMART Scale funding (\$822,000) to support bike lane project
- Request CIP funding for bike, pedestrian, and vehicular safety projects



Mr. Roberts stated that acceptance of the \$822,000 would allow us to move into the next phase, which is to begin the design phase of the project, and to define all opportunities to better improve the corridor for all users.

**Photographs and Drawings were presented showing examples of multimodal corridor projects:**

- Typical pedestrian signs, signals, and markings
- Pedestrian hybrid beacon
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)
- Urbanized bike lane
- Median nose modifications
- Enhanced left-turn lane pockets
- Typical Section – six lane roadway, outer lane converted to a bike lane

**Multimodal Corridor Projects**

- Concrete Pavement Repairs
- Left Turn Lane Pockets
  - Sinclair Street/Norfolk Christian/Tab Church
  - Suburban Parkway/Norfolk Collegiate
- Median Nose Modifications
  - South Median Nose at Suburban Parkway
  - North Median Nose at Thole Street
  - Granby High School Egress
  - South Median Nose at Conway Avenue
- Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon at Suburban Parkway\*
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)\*
  - Dumont Avenue
  - Talbot Hall Road/Fayton Avenue
  - Oxford Street
  - Fife Street
  - Elvin Road
- Pedestrian Accommodations at Admiral Taussig Boulevard and Granby Street

*\*Project requested in next year's Capital Improvement Budget to support Complete Streets and Vision Zero Programs.*

### **Granby Street Multimodal Corridor Projects**

#### **Project Description**

Bike Lane Improvements

Concrete Repairs

Left Turn Lane Pockets

Median Nose Modifications

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon at Suburban Parkway

RRFBs

Pedestrian Accommodations at Adm. Taussig Blvd. & Granby St.

<b>Total Improvement Cost</b>	<b>\$2,683,50</b>
<b>SMART Scale Funding for Bike Lanes</b>	<b>\$822,000</b>
<b>Additional Local CIP Funding Required</b>	<b>\$1,861,250</b>

#### **Recommended Next Steps**

- **January 25, 2022** – Council Action: Accept SMART Scale Funding for Bike Lanes
- **March 2022** – Fully execute VDOT agreement
- **Spring 2022** – CIP Budget adoption
- **Spring-Summer 2022** – Advance with project design and engineering for Granby Street multimodal projects

Councilman Smigiel stated he appreciated they are looking for further solutions on transportation; however, more needs to be done as relates to:

- Overall traffic control - speeding, backups caused by trains, rush-hour backups, HRT bus stops, emergency vehicles, funeral car back-ups, and drop off/pick up for Granby and Norfolk Collegiate
- Neighborhoods used as cut-throughs (such as Fife Street and Warren Avenue)
- Residents entering/exiting their neighborhoods

Councilman Smigiel stated that the request for CIP funds will not be enough to address all issues and we should also look at Build Back Better funding. He added that it is very

important to get this right because it will affect how our citizens look at any future bike lane projects.

Councilwoman Johnson stated that citizen input is very important and that we should be planning for all corridors in the city and for all neighborhoods. She asked that Council be provided with a complete cost analysis of all the Vision Zero projects going on throughout the city. She added that the traffic light upgrades should be done throughout the city. She stated if Granby Street is done right, it can be a model and a master plan that can be expanded to all areas of the city.

Councilman Riddick suggested there has not been enough public input and a public hearing is needed. He added that it appears there are an equal number of proponents and opponents of the bike lanes.

Councilwoman McClellan stated that over the last few years there has been a lot of citizen input. Presentations were made to all civic leagues and an advisory group was formed. She added that 80% of the comments she has received were in favor of the bike lanes. The SMART Scale grant is from 2016 and it is now 2022, and it would be a shame if we lost the opportunity to leverage those funds. She stated she is in favor of moving forward.

Vice Mayor Thomas stated he had had a lot of concerns based on comments he received from citizens against bike lanes. An advisory group was formed and over the last year they worked very hard to get to every single civic league for input. Some meetings were held outdoors because of COVID. Ultimately, they determined this is not just a bike safety plan, but a safety plan for everybody who uses the corridor. Over the last year, there have been plenty of meetings for the public to attend.

Councilwoman Doyle stated that the advisory group was very thoughtful about pros and cons, ideas, and opportunities, and they were very mindful about not only those citizens that live along the corridor but also citizens traveling through from other parts of the city. She added that some civic leagues were more concerned about the overall safety. She also agreed with her colleagues that we need to get this right because it will affect future projects in other parts of the city. Another important piece is maintenance along these corridors and proper maintenance should be built into this proposal.

#### **“Boxing Center Update”**

Presenter: Dr. Larry H. Filer II, City Manager

Dr. Filer stated that the Ingleside Recreation Center will not be used to temporarily house the boxing center and when COVID restrictions are lifted they would like to reopen that center for recreation and programs. He has also instructed staff not to look at any other recreation centers as a possible temporary facility for the boxing center.

Dr. Filer stated that groundbreaking for the casino is set for July 2022. They are now in the process of identifying possible locations in accessible areas across the city to serve



as a temporary facility for the boxing center. At the same time, they are in the process of identifying a permanent location, which could potentially include acquisition of property.

Councilman Smigiel suggested looking at the CVS and Rite Aid Pharmacy sites that are closing in Norfolk. The buildings are on prominent corner locations and are already outfitted with restroom facilities.

### **“City Planning Update”**

Presenter: Mr. George M. Homewood, Director of Planning

Mr. Homewood updated Council on the following items:

### **Virginia Supportive Housing Rezoning**

Location

- 2425 Gosnold Avenue
- West side of Gosnold Avenue between 24<sup>th</sup> and W. 25<sup>th</sup> Streets

Current use

- 61 Single occupancy efficiency apartments with support facilities

Proposal

- Rezoning (modify existing conditions) to allow additional 40 units and include existing parking lot

Site Plan

- Add two stories to rear of the building
- Total of 101 units

City Council Item Preview

### **Virginia Supportive Housing**

### **City Planning Commission Recommendation**

- City Planning Commission, by a vote of 6-0, recommends approval
- The Park Place Civic League voted to not support the project due to the existing concentration of subsidized housing

City Council Item Preview

### **DJ Event Center**



## **Conditional Use Permit**

### **Location**

- 2436 Ingleside Road Suite 2432
- East side of Ingleside Road north of E. Princess Anne Road

### **Proposal**

- Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow live entertainment at a current DJ school

### **City Council Item Preview**

### **DJ Event Center**

### **City Planning Commission Recommendation**

- City Planning Commission, by a vote of 5-1, recommends approval
- The one objecting vote was based on the lack of a well-articulated business plan

Councilwoman Royster asked if the site will be used as a concert area and if tickets for events will be sold. Mr. Homewood stated he did not have the answer but would find out and report back to Council. He stated that other deejays and artists would be there as instructors and mentors for the students.

Councilwoman Royster asked what the hours of operation are. Mr. Homewood stated the proposed hours are as follows: Monday through Thursday - 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday - 8 p.m. to 12 a.m., and Sunday - 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Mayor Alexander expressed concern about the vagueness of the proposed business as relates to a school. Mr. Homewood stated that one of the conditions the applicant has agreed to is that only the students will be giving live performances. Mayor Alexander asked Mr. Homewood to provide more information before it comes on Council's docket.

Councilwoman Johnson noted this is a new small business and that Economic Development can provide resources and guidance so the owner can develop an acceptable model. She expressed concern that a planning commissioner voted against it because their business model was not clear.

## **Council Concerns**

Councilman Riddick asked:

- Can an event be held like what was done at the Scope in the past to provide the homeless with medical care, dental care, haircuts, etc.
- That Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRHA) be contacted and asked to maintain the property at Young Park because there is trash accumulating and streetlights are out. Mayor Alexander suggested that Dr. Filer reach out to Mr. Jackson to let him know of Council's concerns.

Councilman Smigiel suggested:

- Scheduling joint meetings with the NRHA Board, School Board, and some of our larger boards and commissions.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion for closed session was approved for purposes which are set out in **Clauses 8 and 29** of subsection (A) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act:

(8) Consultation with legal counsel regarding a lease with the City, which requires legal advice by such counsel.

(29) Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy.

AYES: Doyle, Johnson, McClellan, Riddick, Royster, Smigiel Jr., Thomas Jr.,  
Alexander

NO: None.

**NORFOLK, VIRGINIA**  
**ACTION OF THE COUNCIL**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022 – 7:00 P.M.**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Followed by the Pledge the Allegiance.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Courtney R. Doyle	Councilmember - Ward 2	Present
Mamie B. Johnson	Councilmember - Ward 3	Present
Andria P. McClellan	Councilmember - Superward 6	Present
Paul R. Riddick	Councilmember - Ward 4	Present
Danica J. Royster	Councilmember - Superward 7	Present
Thomas R. Smigiel Jr.	Councilmember - Ward 5	Present
Martin A. Thomas Jr.	Vice Mayor	Present
Kenneth Cooper Alexander	Mayor	Present
Richard A. Bull	City Clerk	Present
Bernard Pishko	City Attorney	Present
Dr. Larry H. Filer II	City Manager	Present

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approve the minutes of the December 7, 2021 and December 14, 2021 city council meetings.

<b>ACTION:</b>	<b>Adopted [Unanimous]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Doyle, Johnson, McClellan, Riddick, Royster, Smigiel Jr., Thomas Jr., Alexander

### **CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION**

A Resolution certifying a closed meeting of the council of the City of Norfolk in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

<b>ACTION:</b>	<b>Adopted [Unanimous]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Doyle, Johnson, McClellan, Riddick, Royster, Smigiel Jr., Thomas Jr., Alexander

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

PH-1 PUBLIC HEARING scheduled this day, pursuant to State Law, to hear comments on an Ordinance Approving the Sublease to the **Portsmouth Humane Society ("PHS")**, upon Certain Conditions, of a Portion of Certain Property Located at **5585 Sabre Road**, Lease by the City of Norfolk for its Animal Care Center and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Sublease Agreement on Behalf of the City.

Alton Robinson, 5116 E. Princess Anne Road, requested clarification on the details of the lease agreement on this property.

An Ordinance Approving the Sublease to the **Portsmouth Humane Society ("PHS")**, upon Certain Conditions, of a Portion of Certain Property Located at **5585 Sabre Road**, Lease by the City of Norfolk for its Animal Care Center, and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Sublease Agreement on Behalf of the City. - **(Ordinance No. 48612)**

<b>ACTION:</b>	<b>Adopted [Unanimous]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Doyle, Johnson, McClellan, Riddick, Royster, Smigiel Jr., Thomas Jr., Alexander



**CONSENT AGENDA**

**ALL MATTERS LISTED UNDER THE CONSENT AGENDA WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION IN THE FORM LISTED. IF DISCUSSION IS DESIRED ON ANY ITEM, IT WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND CONSIDERED SEPARATELY.**

<b>ACTION:</b>	<b>Adopted [Unanimous]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Doyle, Johnson, McClellan, Riddick, Royster, Smigiel Jr., Thomas Jr., Alexander

- C-1 An Ordinance Granting a Conditional Use Permit to Authorize the Operation of a Commercial Recreation Center and a Restaurant Operating with Extended Hours Named **"Dirty Buffalo"** on Property Located at **4012 Colley Avenue. - (Ordinance No. 48613)**
- C-2 An Ordinance Granting a Conditional Use Permit to Authorize the Operation of a Home Occupation Swim School Named **"Katie's Kickers"** on Property Located at **1736 Columbia Avenue. - (Ordinance No. 48614)**
- Katie Romeo, 1736 Columbia Avenue, was present to answer any questions in favor of this matter.
- C-3 An Ordinance Granting a Conditional Use Permit to Authorize the Construction of a Commercial Communication Tower on Property Located at **6242 Sewells Point Road. - (Ordinance No. 48615)**
- C-4 An Ordinance Granting a Conditional Use Permit to Authorize Short-Term Rental Unit (Vacation Rental) on Property Located at **570 West Ocean View Avenue. - (Ordinance No. 48616)**
- C-5 An Ordinance Granting a Conditional Use Permit to Authorize Short-Term Rental Units (Vacation Rental) on Property Located at **9567 16th Bay Street. - (Ordinance No. 48617)**
- C-6 An Ordinance Granting a Conditional Use Permit to Authorize Short-Term Rental Units (Vacation Rental) on Property Located at **9568 16th Bay Street. - (Ordinance No. 48618)**

- C-7 An Ordinance Granting **Corner Shops, LLC** Permission to Encroach into the Right-of-Way at **2000 Colonial Avenue**, for the Purpose of Outdoor Dining and Approving the Terms and Conditions of the Encroachment Agreement. - **(Ordinance No. 48619)**
- C-8 An Ordinance Permitting **Matthew B. Carasella** to Encroach onto City of Norfolk Right of Way at **9721 17th Bay Street**, with a Stairway, a Deck and a Block Wall. - **(Ordinance No. 48620)**
- C-9 An Ordinance Amending and Reordaining Ordinance No. 48,495 SO AS TO Amend Exhibit A Attached to the Ordinance. - **(Ordinance No. 48621)**
- C-10 An Ordinance Approving a Right of Entry Permitting **Hampton Roads Sanitation District** to Go Upon and Use City-Owned Property Located at **3575 Mississippi Avenue** to Construct a Wastewater Pump Station. - **(Ordinance No. 48622)**
- C-11 A Resolution Requesting the Virginia Department of Transportation to Accept Eligible City Streets for Municipal Assistance Payments and to Remove Ineligible Streets from the Eligible List Pursuant to Section 33.1-41.1 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as Amended. - **(Resolution No. 1848)**

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

- R-1 An Ordinance Amending The **FY2022 Annual Appropriations Ordinance** (No. 48,379) So As To Accept, Appropriate And Authorize The Expenditure Of Grant Funds Up To The Sum Of \$15,000.00 From The Commonwealth Of Virginia Office Of The Attorney General For Overtime Costs Incurred By The Norfolk Police Department For The **Hampton Roads Human Trafficking Task Force**. - **(Ordinance No. 48623)**

Monet Johnson, 3505 Argonne Avenue, spoke in favor of this matter.

<b>ACTION:</b>	<b>Adopted [Unanimous]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Doyle, Johnson, McClellan, Riddick, Royster, Smigiel Jr., Thomas Jr., Alexander

- R-2      An Ordinance to Amend and Reordain Chapter 23 of the *Code of the City of Norfolk, 1979*, as Amended, SO AS TO update it. - **(Ordinance No. 48624)**

Vincent LaSalle, 1342 Reservoir Avenue, spoke in favor of this matter and requested that St. Paul's Advisory Committee meetings be held within a library in that area.

Alton Robinson, 5116 E. Princess Anne Road, requested clarification on the non-profit rate for library space.

<b>ACTION:</b>	<b>Adopted [Unanimous]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Doyle, Johnson, McClellan, Riddick, Royster, Smigiel Jr., Thomas Jr., Alexander

- R-3      A Resolution Concerning Entry of a **Regional Participation Agreement** and Related Matters. - **(Resolution No. 1849)**

<b>ACTION:</b>	<b>Adopted [Unanimous]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Doyle, Johnson, McClellan, Riddick, Royster, Smigiel Jr., Thomas Jr., Alexander

- R-4      An Ordinance Amending The **FY2022 Annual Appropriations Ordinance** (No. 48,379) SO AS TO Accept, Appropriate And Authorize The Expenditure Of Special Revenue Funds Up To The Sum Of \$6,000,000.00 Previously Received From The U.S. Treasury Coronavirus State And Local Fiscal Recovery Funds For The Purpose Of Providing Certain City Services, And To Authorize The Additional Expenditure Of Previously-Appropriated Funds In The Amount Of Up To \$6,000,000.00 For The Purpose Of Constructing A Regional Fiber Ring In Connection With **The Southside Network Authority Broadband Project**. - **(Ordinance No. 48625)**

<b>ACTION:</b>	<b>Adopted [Unanimous]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Doyle, Johnson, McClellan, Riddick, Royster, Smigiel Jr., Thomas Jr., Alexander

- R-5      An Ordinance to Amend the *Norfolk City Council Rules of Procedure* SO AS TO Incorporate the Process of Setting City Council Meeting Times. - **(Ordinance No. 48626)**

<b>ACTION:</b>	<b>Adopted [Unanimous]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Doyle, Johnson, McClellan, Riddick, Royster, Smigiel Jr., Thomas Jr., Alexander

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Shawn Foreman, 2104 Verona Quay, Virginia Beach, spoke regarding transparency in the gem lot sale process in Park Place.

Susan Bak, 155 Dover Circle, spoke against the Granby Street bike lanes.

Vincent LaSalle, 1342 Reservoir Avenue, requested that St. Paul's residents be invited as active participants to the St. Paul's Advisory Committee meetings.

Zachary Lampert, 6015 River Road, spoke against the Granby Street bike lanes.

Ted Lampert, 1476 Ashland Circle, spoke against the Granby Street bike lanes.

Michael Hillstrom, 240 Huntsman Road, spoke in favor of the Granby Street bikes lanes.

Holly Ann Matel, 1325 Westmoreland Avenue, spoke in favor of the Granby Street bike lanes.

Travis Davidson, 1045 S. Lexan Crescent, requested that the City perform a traffic stress analysis before making a final determination on the Granby Street bike lanes.

Monet Johnson, 3505 Argonne Avenue, requested more ARPA dropboxes throughout Norfolk to ensure equal access.

Elizabeth Carhart, 616 Rhode Island Avenue, spoke regarding the future of Norfolk and expressed support for the Granby Street bike lanes.

Madeline Carhart, 616 Rhode Island Avenue, spoke in favor of the Granby Street bike lanes.



January 11, 2022

Terrell Davis, 1022 Dillon Street, spoke regarding the availability of affordable housing to Norfolk residents.

Alton Robinson, 5116 E. Princess Anne Road, commented on the homicide rate in Norfolk to date.

### **ADJOURNMENT**